been facing problems in its milk trading operations and other activities.

(b) The Government of West Bengal has taken the following steps to revive the activities of the Union:—

(i) Financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 60 lakh has been released to this milk union.

(ii) A new Chief Executive Officer has been posted in this 'Milk' Union.

(iii) A Committee has been constituted to look into the chronic problems of the Milk Union.

(iv) The Milk Union has since resumed its milk trading operations and has taken necessary steps to gear up its activities.

VFC Tobacco

4100. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of transfer of Cost of Production Scheme of VFC tobacco in Andhra Pradesh, from Ministry of Agriculture to Agro Economic Research Centre of Andhra University;

(b) if so, whether a decision has been taken in the matter;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The decision has already been taken to transfer the VFC Tobacco Scheme from Dte. of Tobacco Development, Madras to AER Centre, Waltair, Andhra University.

(d) The modalities and other procedural details of the transfer deed are being worked in consultation with all concerned. However, these modalities would depend on the terms and conditions of the transfer deed.

Requirement of fertilizers of small and marginal farmers

@4101. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the requirement of fertilizer by the small and marginal farmers in the country during the year 1991-92;

(b) whether it was supplied at cheap rates to them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The fertilizer requirement of small & marginal farmers was estimated to be about 30 per cent of the total fertilizer consumption in the country.

(b) and (c) The State Governments/ Union Territories were allocated Rs. 405 crores during 1991-92 for supply of fertilizer to small & marginal farmers at the prices prevailing before 25-7-1991. The State Governments were given flexibility to formulate schemes for reaching the target group of farmers. The scheme is under implementation by the State Governments.

Manufacturing and import of pesticides

@@4102. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides which have been banned or unregistered in the country of origin are manufactured and imported in the country, if so, the quantities and value of such pesticides manufactured or imported during the last 3 years;

@Previously Unstarred Question 2265, transferred from the 12th March, 1992.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2268, transferred from the 12th March, 1992.